



## Merry Christmas from the Drum



photo courtesy Danielle Hight

Staff members of The Southern Ute Drum (left to right) Robert L. Ortiz, Ace Stryker and Jeremy Wade Shockley wish the Southern Ute Indian Tribe a merry Christmas and prosperous new year!



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Celebrating one year of service to the membership, the recently opened Multi-Purpose Facility hosted an open house on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Among those who stopped by during the day to enjoy the refreshments and conversation were Dr. James Jefferson and Sage Remington (above) and Virginia Sage and Josephine Olguine (below).

## Multi-Purpose Facility: 1 year down, many more to come

By Ace Stryker  
The Southern Ute Drum

About 30 Southern Ute tribal members turned out at the tribe's Multi-Purpose Facility on Wednesday, Dec. 7 to celebrate its first complete year of operation.

The facility provided light refreshments to visitors and the

chance to win one of 16 door prizes. Several visitors left comment cards for the staff, indicating their feelings about the anniversary celebration and the facility in general.

"It is a very nice facility," one person wrote. "All tribal members should be very proud to have such a nice facility, and we should take good care of it."

"I enjoy coming over to sew," another wrote.

"Very nice facility!" reported a third person. "I am grateful the tribe provides the facility! Will definitely be using in the future."

The facility is free for tribal member use and is available for reservations on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, call 970-563-4784.



## Fort Lewis College's first century concludes with Winter commencement

Media release  
Fort Lewis College

For around 180 seniors at Fort Lewis College, Winter Commencement will mark a triumphant end to their undergraduate academic careers.

Every graduating class is special, though the 2011 class will be recognized as the centennial graduating class to commemorate Fort Lewis' 100 years as a public educational institution.

Fort Lewis College's Winter Commencement takes place on Saturday, Dec. 17 in Whalen Gym. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. Addressing the College's newest graduates will be the 2011 FLC Featured Scholar and Professor of Geosciences Dr. Gary Gianniny.

"Research builds," Gianniny said. It's an axiom that is illustrated by his research portfolio. His pursuit of knowledge has taken him around the world studying

topics from evolution and sedimentary records found in limestone to the energy potential of microbial deposits and the effects of coal extraction on groundwater.

"Integrative science that bridges across scientific fields and provides useful information is by far the most exciting thing we can do in research," Gianniny said. "One of our college-wide learning goals is the application of knowledge to inform action: That's our game."

## Multi-Purpose Facility 1st anniversary prize drawing winners

\$10 Applebees – Ronalynn Tiznado  
\$10 Chili's – Willette Whiteskunk  
Plush Throw – Virginia Sage  
\$10 Applebees – Vanessa Torres  
\$10 Pizza Hut – Nova Burch  
\$10 Pizza Hut – Frieda Pinnecoose  
\$10 Applebees – Kean Richards  
\$10 Chili's – Robert Baker

\$10 Pizza Hut – Terry Box  
Pink Scarf – Ester Richards  
Green Scarf – Ms. Georgia  
Burgundy Scarf – Lorelia Cloud  
Black Scarf – Leann Wilson  
Green Scarf – Rena Richards  
Scarf – Yvette Cuthair  
Blue Plush Throw – Josephine Olguin



Photo: Gary Elthie

### Wood Smoke and Your Health

Small particles and pollutants in wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks. Wood smoke has also been linked to heart attacks in people with heart disease.

Even occasional exposure to wood smoke can cause watery eyes, stuffy noses and chest tightness. Everyone may experience symptoms, but children and elders are especially vulnerable.

## FOUR EASY STEPS TO DRY WOOD



### STEP 1 SPLIT

- Start with the right sized wood
- Split wood dries much faster
- Split the wood in a range of sizes to fit your stove, but no larger than 6 inches in diameter
- Split small pieces for kindling



### STEP 2 STACK

- Stack wood to allow air to circulate
- Build the stack away from buildings
- Keep wood off the ground. Stack it on rails
- Stack wood in a single row with the split side down



### STEP 3 COVER

- Cover the top of the stack to protect it from rain or snow
- Make sure there is space between the cover and the stacked wood - don't let the cover rest directly on top
- Keep the sides open so air can circulate through the stack



### STEP 4 STORE

- Allow enough time to dry
- Softwoods take about 6 months
- Hardwoods take about 12 months
- Cracked ends on the wood typically means it is dry enough to burn



### Is your wood dry? Take the moisture meter test.

Wet wood can create excessive smoke which is wasted fuel. Moisture meters that allow you to test the moisture level in wood are available in all sizes and can cost as little as \$20. Properly dried wood should have a reading of 20% or less. Dry wood creates a hotter fire. Hotter fires save wood - ultimately saving you time and money.

### Clean and Efficient Heating Checklist

Burning dry firewood can save money and protect you and your family's health. A properly installed and operated wood-burning stove should produce little smoke.

- ☐ Start a small fire with dry kindling then add a few pieces of wood.
- ☐ Give the fire plenty of air - fully open the air controls until the fire is roaring.
- ☐ Burn the fire to heat the chimney or flue before adding more wood.
- ☐ Keep space between the firewood as you add more to the fire.
- ☐ Check for local burn bans and avoid fireplace and wood stove use while in effect.
- ☐ Avoid burning garbage, treated lumber, or saltwater driftwood. Burning these items can damage your stove and cause serious health issues.
- ☐ Have your stove and chimney professionally inspected and serviced yearly if possible.
- ☐ If available, refer to your owner's manual for start-up guidelines.
- ☐ A smoldering fire, "dirty" glass doors, or smoke from the chimney are all signs that the fire needs more air or your wood is too moist.

Properly dried wood is lighter, has cracks in the grain on the end, and sounds hollow when knocked against another piece of wood.

